



Saguaro National Park News Release

12-50

For Immediate Release

September 24, 2011

Contacts: Saguaro East - Melanie Florez (520) 733-5153
Saguaro West - Richard Hill (520) 733-5158

Important note to editors: SAVE THE DATE – Oct. 27, Native American Culture Fair, Saguaro National Park West, 2700 N. Kinney Rd., all day. The event will include talks, dancing, music, arts and crafts demonstrations, a rug show, and other special events. Coverage invited; wonderful photo and interview ops. The west district's park admission will be free that day, and the fair has no admission charge. Details to follow in a separate press release. Please see below for other scheduled October events in each district of the park.

CORRECTION TO: OCTOBER PROGRAMS OFFERED AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Saguaro National Park is offering special programs this fall that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Come along on a naturalist-led walk in the park, or join a local expert for a presentation in one of our visitor centers. *Programs are offered at both the east and west districts.* Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Oct. 7, 14, 21 *Upon Request, morning only. Where The Hot Things Are* 10-minute stroll

As time permits, a scientist knowledgeable in natural history and geology will lead groups of 3 to 10 people on spur-of-the-moment strolls near the Visitor Center to find out what how the cacti, lizards, bugs, plants, and birds are faring this fall. No reservations needed; inquire at the reception desk.

Oct. 7, 8, 14, 21 10:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** Walk: 40 minutes, 100 yards

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring visitors face to thorns with plants that remind them of people they know, friendly and otherwise. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 7, 8, 14, 21 2:15 p.m. **Fast Food in the Desert** Talk: 45 minutes

Arizona Desert indigenous people of centuries past looked to the natural world for sustenance, from the mammoths of olden days to the Three Sisters of corn, beans, and squash of more recent times. What other foods did indigenous people eat; and what's an atlatl, anyway? *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 3:15 p.m. **Meet the Cuckoo of the Desert** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the natural history and behavior of this colorful creature: the roadrunner. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30 *Upon Request, afternoon only. How Do They Do It?* 10-minute stroll

As time permits, a park naturalist will lead groups of 3 to 10 people on strolls near the Visitor Center. Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to thrive in our unique and harsh environment. No reservations needed; inquire at the reception desk.

Oct. 5, 6, 13, 20 10:45 a.m. **Snakes: The Slither Factor** Talk: 40 minutes

All that slithers is not venomous; and snakes of all kinds play important roles in desert ecology, including controlling the rodent population. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 5, 6, 13, 20, 26 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro NP** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Wheelchair accessible.*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) include:

October 5 & 19 8:30 a.m. Desert Bird Walk *Easy Hike*

Join volunteer naturalist Vicki Powers for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

October 11 & 25 2:00 p.m. Arizona Rainforest *Easy Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist for this 90 minute stroll along a desert wash. We'll identify the trees of the cactus forest and learn how essential rain is to the abundant life of the Sonoran Desert.

October 15, 22 & 29 10:30 a.m. Sonoran Lifestyles *1 mile guided walk*

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

October 16, 23 & 30 3:00 p.m. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert* *Presentation*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 19 2:00 p.m. Cactus Caravan *Auto Tour*

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 19 7:00 p.m. Night Walk *1 Mile Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist for this easy 2-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, *Reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.*

October 24 3:00 p.m. An Air-Conditioned Walk with the Saguaros *Presentation*

Join park staff in the cool comfort of the visitor center auditorium to explore the life of the Saguaro Cactus. Discover how this cactus and other desert dwellers adapt to a life in an often challenging environment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 27 2:00 p.m. Desert Discovery *2 mile Guided Hike*

Join park staff to discover what the plants and animal are up to at Saguaro national park. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.

Daily Programs

The park's two districts offer additional daily interpretive programs not listed here. Contact either of our visitor centers for updated schedules, or visit our website online at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.